



9 FEBRUARY, 2025

Welcome

Welcome to worship, we hope you enjoy being with us.

Lectionary Readings

This week 9 February, 2025

Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13)
Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

Next week 16 February, 2025

Jeremiah 17:5-10
Psalm 1
1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Luke 6:17-26

Movie Opportunity

If you have ever wanted to be an extra in a movie, this could be your big chance. A member of the Presbytery is making an audiovisual production of the life of Jesus and needs at least 200 people to be part of the crowd for the feeding of the 5000. If you are interested, just be at Ebenezer Church, 95 Coromandel Road, Ebenezer next Saturday 15 February at 11am. Bring your picnic blanket or chairs and your lunch.

SRE Commissioning Service

This year's SRE (Special Religious Education) Commissioning Service will be here on Saturday 22nd February at 2pm. It will be a shorter and less formal service than in previous years and will be followed by afternoon tea. You would be most welcome to attend and support those who provide SRE in our local schools.

World Vision Child Sponsorship

We are still collecting donations for the three children we sponsor through World Vision.

If you are able to make a contribution towards the \$1700 our sponsorship costs us, it would be appreciated; you can give your gift to Karen S or transfer money direct to our bank account, the details are BSB 112 879, account number 428 172 081, please put your name and WV in the reference if possible.

Offering Envelopes

The new Offering Envelopes for the year commencing 2 March, 2025 are now available on the back table, please take a box if you would like one.



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Don't count fish, catch people

Isaiah 6:1-8, Luke 5:1-11

Luke 5:1-11 is a fishing story to end all fishing stories. Jesus arrives at the lakeside where two boats have been drawn up on the beach. One belongs to Simon and the other to two brothers, James and John. The three business partners (v7) with their hired hands, had fished all night in the shallows. Jesus is being followed by a crowd and he climbs into his friend's boat and he asks Simon Peter and his crew to row him out from the shore where he sits and addresses the crowd.

The crowd eventually disperses and Jesus persuades Simon Peter to row out to deeper water and let down his nets for some daytime fishing. Only a dumb carpenter would dare order a professional fisherman to drop his shallow water nets into the deep, in broad daylight. You might as well search for a needle in a haystack, but the words of the "**master**" could not be ignored.

The result was stunning. There were fish everywhere. The nets were in danger of breaking and Peter called for the second boat. Now the nets were full and the boats so overloaded that they nearly sank. There, probably sitting on top of a slimy pile of fish, Simon Peter falls on his knees in repentance with the amazing words of 5:8 "**Go away from me Lord, I am a sinful man.**" The overwhelming awe of the seasoned fisherman brought him to realise the tremendous power of Jesus.

That would be a terrific yarn and little more if it applied only to those Galilean fishermen long ago, but we are hearing it now and we, too, are being called. The story of the gospel reading is that those fishermen did not stand on the beach counting their catch of the day. But (5v11) "**they pulled the boats up on the beach, left everything and followed Jesus.**"

Would you? Would I? Will you? Will I? Have you?

Many in our congregation spend time each week caring for needy people in our neighbourhood and administering our church. Would you?

Our Op Shop volunteers, Our Hands & Feet team. And so many others in so many untold ways cast our lines into the community offering love and support, offering the love of God to others. Would you? Do you?

If Jesus was preaching today he may well remind us that we live in a community where so many are not yet Christians. He calls us to go and "catch them". Would you? Will you?

And what would that mean in practical terms?

Only you can answer that. When the disciples were called, I guess they had no idea what exactly they would be doing in "Fishing for men". But they responded to the call of Jesus. Do you?

Maybe our Lord is calling you today to new and sacrificial service. Some know what it is like to walk away from something they are doing to serve God in another way.

Don't just stand there on the beach counting fish. Leave them on the beach and come catch people for the Kingdom of God.

Adrian